Sharing Collections: Does Distance Matter?

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Background

- University System of Maryland (USM) Board of Regents tasks the University of Maryland, Baltimore and the University of Maryland, College Park to establish a closer working relationship
- Established MPower the State Initiative
- Access to library resources was most requested by faculty involved in the MPower project.
- MPower administration underestimated the amount of time and the costs involved in resource sharing
- The MPower Virtual Research Library was in addition to the consortial library resource licensing already in place among the 16 USM libraries

Library Initiative

Identified Major Areas for Resource Sharing Cooperation

- Microbiology
- Bioinformatics
- Genomics
- Bioengineering
- Public Health
- Intellectual Property Law
- Health Law
- Environmental Law

MPower Virtual Research Library (MVRL)

- Aligned collections between campuses
- Established joint licensing agreements whenever possible
- Received funding to support MVRL

Participating Libraries

University of Maryland, College Park
- Flagship Campus
- ARL library

University of Maryland
Health Sciences and Human Services Library
- Only health sciences library in USM
- AAHSL member

Thurgood Marshall Law Library
- On UMB campus
- One of two law libraries in the state

Future Steps

- Develop a joint licensing framework to guide future purchases
- Explore adding additional University System of Maryland institutions to the agreement
- Establish metrics for success beyond usage statistics such as increased collaborative publishing and grant funding.

University of Maryland
Health Sciences and Human Services Library

Renaissance
MAC-MLA 2013